

Appl. No. 10/781,650

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required an Election of Species between the following species;

Species 1: Figs. 5-7;

Species 2: Fig. 8;

Species 3: Fig. 10;

Species 4: Fig. 11; and

Species 5: Fig. 12.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants elect Species I, including Figs. 5-7, for examination. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants traverse this election, since they feel the Examiner has not shown the distinctiveness of the various species. Further, Applicants submit that it would not create undue hardship on the Examiner to consider all of these species together.

The Examiner indicated, and Applicant agrees, that claims 1-5 and 12 of the original claims were generic. Applicants have cancelled these claims, and now present new claims 13-35. Of the new claims, claims 13-25 and 32-34 are generic to all five species. Claims 26 and 28 relate to Species I. Claims 27 and 35 relate to Species IV. Claim 29 relates to Species II. Claim 30 relates to Species III. Claim 31 relates to Species V.

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Since Applicants have elected Species I, it is submitted that claims 13-26, 28, and 32-34 are now in condition for examination. Accordingly, early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$55.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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